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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7653
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAN JOSE 2568

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y SECTION INFO

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MARY HOYT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, CS (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S MAY 31 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER

1. TRANSMITTED HEREWITH IS DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN MRS. CARTER AND PRESIDENT ODUBER AT ODUBER'S OFFICE, MAY 31.

2. PARTICIPANTS:

U.S. COSTA RICA
MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER

ASST. SECY. TERENCE A. TODMAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO

CHARGE LOWELL C. KI
YAY MINISTER OF EDUCATION
FERNANDO VOLIO

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MARVIN MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
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WEISSMAN FERNANDO NARANJO

ROBERT PASTOR, NSC MINISTER OF ECONOMY
JORGE SANCHEZ

MARY HOYT, PRESS SECRETARY MRS. MARJORIE ODUBER
FOR MRS. CARTER

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STEPHANIE VON REIGERSBERG,
INTERPRETER

JOHN MAISTO, NOTETAKER

3. AFTER OPENING PLEASANTRIES, DURING WHICH TIME MRS.
CARTER
RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENT LEFT A MEETING OF SENATORS AND
REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKEIM CONGRATULATORY CALL TO ODUBER WHEN THE
COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT RECEIVED THE SCHWEITZER AWARD, PRESIDENT
ODUBER SPOKE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT HE IS HAPPY THAT THE
PRESIDENT AND THE U.S. ARE INVOLVED IN AN AREA THAT COSTA RICA HAS
LONG BEEN FIGHTING FOR, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES
CAN MOVE AHEAD TOGETHER. MRS. CARTER TOLD PRESIDENT ODUBER THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER WAS GOING TO SIGN THE IAHR CONVENTION THE NEXT
DAY. ODUBER EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AND SAID THAT MRS. CARTER
COULD MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT HER NEWS CONFERENCE. FACIO SAID
THAT MRS. CARTER HAD ALREADY MADE IT AT THE AIRPORT. MRS.
CARTER ALSO NOTED THAT SHE HAD SPOKEN TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY
ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT MANLEY PROMISED TO TAKE IT UP WITH CARICOM
COUNTRIES AT THEIR NEXT MEETING, AND THAT JAMAICA WOULD SIGN.
PRESIDENT ODUBER SAID THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE
MOVED BACKWARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING
COUNTRIES OF THZPCARIBBEAN HAVE MOVED FORWARD.

4. ODUBER STATED THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION FERNANDO VOLIO,
FOREUGN MINISTER FACIO AND HE WOULD GO TO THE UNGA TO WORK ON
HUMAN RIGHTS.SRVOLIO NOTED THAT HE IS WORKING WITH TOM FARER,
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OF WHOM HE HAS HIGH ESTEEM. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAS ASKED
FERNANDO VOLIO TO GIVE AMBASSADOR TODMAN A MEMORANDUM WITH COSTA
RICAN SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN INTERAMERICAN AND
UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY.

5. ODUBER STATED THAT ONE WAY TO ATTACK HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL
IS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE COUNTRIES, BUT RATHER TO BE EMPHATIC SUPPORT-
ERTS OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS. HE SPOKE OF
SPECIAL DEFERENCE TO LEADERS OF SUCH COUNTRIES AND SPEICAL
TREATMENT IN LOANS AND ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST IT
WAS EASIER FOR DICTATORSHIPS TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL LOANS; THEY
APPEARED TO DO THINGS MORE RAPIDLY AND EFFICIENTLY. HIS IDEA
WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE THAT DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES GET SPECIAL
TREATMENT.

6. ODUBER GAVE A RUNDOWN ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CENTRAL
AMERICA. HE STATED THAT GUATEMALA IS MAKING AN EFFORT ON HUMAN
RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT SALVADOR IS A PROBLEM, THAT HE HAS TALKED
WITH SALVADORAN LEADERS, AND THAT HE FEELS THAT WITH THE NEW

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GOVERNMENT TAKING OFFICE IN JULY, POSITIVE MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN. HE STATED THAT THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS ARE IN HONDURAS. REGARDING NICARAGUA, HE SAID THAT THE KEY THERE IS TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO END THE STATE OF SIEGE, AND FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY, WHICH IS THE STRONGEST PARTY THERE, TO CHOOSE AS ITS NEXT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SOMEONE WHO IS NOT A RELATIVE OF SOMOZA.

7. ODUBER PROCEEDED TO SPIN HOW OWN THEORY REGARDING POLITICAL REALITIES IN LATIN AMERICA: WHEN THERE IS AN INDIAN MAJORITY, THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WINS ELECTIONS. THE REASON: INDIANS REVERE ANCESTRY AND AUTHORITY, AND THEIR VOTE IS A VOTE FOR AUTHORITY. THZUEXCEPTION IS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BEST, AND THAT THIS THEORY WAS ESPECIALLY VALID THERE. HE CONTINUED THAT IN THE CARIBBEAN THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES ARE DEMOCRATIC, AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THESE COUNTRIES. HE SAID
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HE FELT THE SAME ABOUT CENTRAL AMERICA, NOTING THAT THE RUST CAN BE MADE IN HONJHRAS, GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, AND NICARAGUA IN THAT PRIORITY ORDER, AND IN PANAMA AFTER THE CANAL SITUATION IS RESOLVED. HE SAID THAT U.S. STATEMENTS AND POLICIES WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN SUCH PROGRESS.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

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8. THE PRESIDENT MUSED ABOUT PROBLEMS IN THE AREA WHICH HE DISCUSSED WITH DEAN RUSK FIFTEEN YEARS AGO: CUBA, HAITI AND PANAMA. HE IS PLEASED WITH THE CLEAR U.S. POLICY ON CUBA AND PANAMA. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HAITI IS A PROBLEM, AND THAT FOR THE SAFETY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THE CARIBBEAN, SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE THERE. FERNANDO VOLIO NOTED IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP ON TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER FOR HAITI TO BE AFFECTED.

9. PRESIDENT ODUBER RETURNED TO THE CARIBBEAN THEME, NOTING THAT HE FEELS THAT WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS,THE NATIONS IN THE AREA -- ON THE BACKDROP OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS -- CAN FLOURISH. IN RESPONSE TO MRS. CARTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE SPECIFICALLY, ODUBER STATED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO REORGANIZE AND EXPAND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET WITH A VIEW TO MERGE IT WITH CARICOM, AND POSSIBLY EVEN WITH THE ANDEAN GROUP. HE ALSO SPOKE OF MULTI-LATERAL ENTERPRISES SUCH AS NAMUCAR, AND FERTICA. ALONG THIS LINE HE SPOKE OF DEVELOPING THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY IN THE CARIBBEN AND PHOSPHATES IN LOWER CALIFORNIA (MEXICO); HE ALSO SPOKE OF INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS TO TAP RESOURCES IN DEEP SEA BEDS.

10. ODUBER NOTED THAT VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA MUST BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTED IN A CARIBBEAN OUTLOOK, AND THAT WITH SUCH AN INTEREST THE THREAT OF CUBA IS DIMINISHED. ON HAITI, THEIR LACK OF HUMAN RESOURCES WAS NOTED. ODUBER SAID THAT FRANCE HAS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING HAITI -- TO PROVIDE TECH-NOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. HE STATED THAT DUVALIER WOULD LIKE THAT AND HE WILL RAISE THIS WITH THE GOF IN HIS VISIT TO FRANCE LATER IN JUNE.

11. ON BELIZE, FACIO NOTED THAT COSTA RICA HAS CONVINCED THE GUATEMALANS TO ABANDON THEIR PURELY JURIDICAL BASIS FOR THE DISPUTE. FACIO NOTED THAT SOME BELIZE TERRITORIES ARE OCCUPIED BY GUATE-MALAN INDIANS; THE IDEA WOULD BE FOR GUATEMALA TO GET THE TERRITORY WHERE THE INDIANS LIVE. ODUBER ELABORATED THAT THE SOLUTION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE AREA SOUTH OF THE MONKEY RIVER, AND THE LINE DRAWN SOMEWHERE THERE. ODUBER STATED THAT HE HAD TRAVELED TO PANAMA THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO TALK TO TORRIJOS ABOUT BELIEZE/GUATEMALA AND PANAMA-GUATEMALA RELATIONS, AND THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH TORRIJOS ON THESE SUBJECTS AGAIN ON JUNE 3. HE ADDED THAT HE SENT FACIO TO GUATEMALA TO TALK ABOUT THE SAME PROBLEM. HE SAID HE IS EXERTING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON TORRIJOS ON THESE MATTERS. ODUBER ALSO STATED THAT COSTA RICA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TORRIJOS CONTAINING HIMSELF ON THE CANAL

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PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT TORRIJOS BELIEVES IN PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE BELIEVE IN A TREATY SOLUTION COMING FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

12. FACIO SAID HE HAD JUST THE SOLUTION TO BELIZE/GUATEMALA: FOR GREAT BRITAIN TO CEDE BELIZE TO GUATEMALA, AND FOR GUATEMALA TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE...

13. MRS. CARTER ASKED PRESIDENT ODUBER IF THERE WERE ANY SPECIAL MESSAGES THAT ODUBER WANTED HER TO TAKE BACK TO THE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT ODUBER RESPONDED THAT THE FIRST IS THAT COSTA RICA IS FIRMLY BEHIND HIM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMILITARIZATION, AND THE NEED TO REDUCE ARMS SPENDING ACROSS THE BOARD. AFTER STATING HE DIDN'T WANT TO FDR# MRS. CARTER ON TRADE, AND BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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URGED BY FACIO AND MRS. CARTER TO DO SO, ODUBER TURNED TO THAT SUBJECT.

14. HE SAID THAT COSTA RICA'S BEST MARKETS ARE IN THE INDUSTRIAL-IZED NATIONS. HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE LOME CONVENTION, LATIN AMERICA IS NOW DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY EUROPE. AS A RESULT, LATIN AMERICA TURNS ITS EYE TO ITS BEST CUSTOMER: THE U.S. ODUBER STATED THAT COSTA RICA DOES NOT WANT A LOME CONVENTION FOR LATIN AMERICA; HE SAID THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THE U.S. BELIEVES IN IT. HE SAID THAT UNTIL EUROPE DROPS ITS TRADE BARRIERS TO LATIN AMERICAN, THE U.S. SHOULD TRY TO DO SOMETHING FOR LATIN AMERICA. HE STATED THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, HE SAID, WAS DISRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF SMALL COUNTRIES THAT HAVE GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS. HE NOTED COSTA RICA'S PROBLEMS IN TRADE: SUGAR, MEAT, TEXTILES AND

CHAYOTE (A NATIVE SQUASH-LIKE VEGETABLE). HE SAID THAT COSTA RICAN PRODUCTION IS SO SMALL THAT ANY HELP THE U.S. GIVES IN THESE AREAS WOULD MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE.

15. REGARDING COFFEE PRICES, ODUBER STATED THAT $3.00 LB. IS A NORMAL PRICE IN TERMS OF THE COST OF THE GOODS THAT COSTA RICA HAS TO IMPORT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE HIGH AT CONSUMERS. HE STATED THAT COSTA RICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS POPULATION DUE TO BETTER PRICES. A HUGE DROP IN COFFEE PRICES WOULD MEAN A TREMENDOUS BLOW TO STANDARDS OF LIVING IN

COSTA RICA; IT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL CHAOS. GOVERNMENTS

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AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

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WOULD HAVE TO PURCHASE WEAPONS TO COMBAT THE CAHOS; COSTA RICA IS NOT INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING.

16. FACIO NOTED THAT COSTA RICA MAKES A GREAT EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY; FOR EXAMPLE, IT GOES INTO CATTLE PRODUCTION. THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IS DEVELOPED WITH THE U.S. MARKET IN MIND. S

THEN COSTA RICA IS THWARTED BY U.S. IMPORT LIMITS.

17. AMBASSADOR SILVA SAID THAT THE PEOPLE WHO DETERMINE THE LEVELS OF U.S. IMPORTS DO NOT TAKE UWNSXCCOUNT THE NEW PRODUCERS; THEY ONLY LOOK AT THE HISTORIC PATTERNS OF TRADE. HE NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPLE HAD BEEF BROKEN IN 1976 WITH A DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL QUOTA FOR PANAMA WHICH WAS NOT BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE.

18. PRESIDENT ODUBER SPOKE OF COSTA RICA'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE A MEAT DEAL WITH JAMAICA, ONLY TO BE UNDERSOLD BY AN AUSTRALIAN DUMPING PROCEDURE. IN RESPONSE TO MR. PASTOR'S OBSERVATIONS THAT THE BEEF-PRODUCING NATIONS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD PUT PRESSURE ON THE LARGEST MEAT PRODUCERS, ODUBER STATED THAT U.S. PRESSUJE WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVEK

19. MRS. CARTER NOTED THAT U.S. IS NOT MAKING ANY

PROMISES IN THE TRADE AREA, BUT, HOWEVER, SHE WOULD WANT

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PRESIDENT ODUBER TO KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS IS STUDY-
ING THE MATTER OF UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES' EXPORTS.
ODUBER STATED THAT IF CHANGES ARE MADE, SO MUCH
THE BETTER. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE KQMS.
PROBLEMS, AND THAT IF THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT SOLVED,
COUNTRIES SUCH AS COSTA RICA CAN SEEK "DIFFERENT COMPEN-
SATIONS."

20. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT HE HAD A NEW PROBLEM TO
PRESENT. IT CONCERNS A U.S. POSITION THAT THE INTER-
AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK NOT GIVE A LOAN TO A NEW COSTA
RICAN COMPANY NAMED SIXAOLA. HE NOTED THAT HE HAS BEEN
ABLE TO WORK POSITIVELY WITH UNITED BRANDS IN AGRARIAN
REFORM TYPE PROJECTS IN THE SOUTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY,
IN AREAS THAT PRODUCE AFRICAN PALM OIL. A JOINT VENTURE
BETWEEN THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT AND UNITED BRANDS WAS
ORGANIZED--SIXAOLA. AN IDB LOAN IS A KEY PART OF THE DEAL.
HOWEVER, COSTA RICASTAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE IDB DOES NOT
GRANT LOANS FOR FATS AND OILS PRODUCTION (THE SOYA
PROBLEM). THE LOCAL OPERATION WOULD BE FOR INTERNAL
CONSUMPTION ONLY, ODUBER NOTED.

21. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WEISSMAN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT
THE PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN RESOLVED RECENTLY
WITH REGARD TO A SIMILAR CASE INNDONDURAS. THE PRESIDENT SAID
THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. HE ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN THIS
MATTER, NOTING THAT UNITED BRANDS BUSINESS NOW IS
MARKETING IN COSTA RICA, AND THAT PRODUCTION IS LEFT TO
COSTA RICANS. HE SAID THIS MAKES SENSE, AND HE DOES NOT
WANT TO SEE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS FALL APART.

2. PRESIDENT ODUBER PROCEEDED TO LIST THE AREAS IN WHICH
COSTA RICA IS NO. 1: BANANA PRODUCTION; PRODUCTION OF
COFFEE PER HECTARE; CHAYOTE, (A NATIVE SQUASH-LIKE
VEGETABLE), AND LATIN AMERICAN PROVIDER OF BEEF TO THE U.S.
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MARKET.

23. MRS. CARTER RAISED THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL REFUGEES
IN COSTA RICA. ODUBER SAID THAT COSTA RICA HAS THE
HIGHEST NUMBER IN PROPORTION TO ITS POPULATION THAN ANY
COUNTRY IN THE WORLD (10,000 OUT OF A POPULATION OF
TWO MILLION--NOT COUNTING 70,000 NICARAGUANS). MRS. CARTER
INDICATED THAT U.S. WANTS THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION TO SEIZE UPON THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES. SHE
SAID THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSION FOR
THIS EFFORT. PRESIDENT ODUBER STATED THAT ALL COUNTRIES
SHOULD CONTRIBUTE PROPORTIONALLY, AND THAT COSTA RICA
WOULD. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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MUST BE AMENDED TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY. FACIO NOTZC THAT A NEW, STRONG EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS NEEDED. FERNANDO VOLIO SAID THAT HE HAD A CANDIDATE, AN AMERICAN NAMED TOM MCCARTHY WHO HAS HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERIENCE. FACIO STATED THAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOULD NOT BE A U.S. CITIZEN. ODUBER AGREED. VOLIO SAID HE HAD ANOTHER CANDIDATE, A CHILEAN PRESENTLY RESIDING IN VENEZUELA.

24. IN RESPONSE TO MR. PASTOR'S QUESTION ABOUT THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE AUTONOMY OF THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, VOLIO AND ODUBER RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. THEY NOTED THAT COMMISSION SHOULD REPORT TO EVERY COUNTRY SEPARATELY; ODUBER REPEATED THE NEED FOR SEPARATE FUNDING. AMBASSADOR SILVA STATED THAT COUNTRIES THAT VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE BANNED FROM THE COMMISSION. ODUBER ALSO NOTED THAT WHAT IS NEEDED NOW ARE STRONG ACTIONS AND FEWER WORDS WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

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25. IN A FINAL NOTE ON THE CARIBBEAN, PRESIDENT ODUBER SUGGESTED TO MRS. CARTER THAT AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG BE SENT TO THE CARIBBEAN TO DEAL WITH THE BLACK COUNTRIES AND THE BLACK LEADERS IN THE AREA. ODUBER SAID HE STILL FEARS FIDEL CASTRO'S INFLUENCE WITH THE BLACK CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, AND THAT YOUNG CAN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THEM.

26. ON BEING PRESENTED A BOOK OF NASA PHOTOGRAPHS, PRESIDENT ODUBER MENTIONED PRIVATELY TO MRS. CARTER

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THAT COSTA RICA WAS VERY PLEASED TO SEE THAT PRESI-
DENT CARTER HAD MENTIONED IN HIS OAS SPEECH THAT THE
U.S. WOULD HELP MAKE SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO
THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID THAT USAID AND
THE GOCR WERE COLLABORATING IN A REMOTE-SENSING PROGRAM
TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF DEFORESTATION IN COSTA RICA,
AND TO MAKE PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THE
IMAGERY AVAILABLE WAS NOW TWO OR THREE YEARS OLD AND
DID NOT HELP SHOW THE DEVASTATING RATE OF RECENT DEFORES-
TATION. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR
THE GOCR TO REQUEST NEW IMAGERY, HE HOPED THAT NASA
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. MRS. CARTER INDICATED THAT SHE
WAS CERTAIN THE USG WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE
AND THAT SHE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD ENJOY THE BOOKS.
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